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Labour Market Information Monthly

September 2009 Edition *Issue 9 Volume 6*

PUBLIC SCHOOL INDICATORS [1]

Just over 5.16 million students were enrolled in publicly funded elementary and secondary schools in Canada during the academic year 2006/2007, down 0.9% from the previous year and down 3.5% from 2000/2001. Enrolment has declined every year since 2002/2003, as the larger cohorts of graduating students are replaced by the smaller cohorts of grade 1 students.

Between 2005/2006 and 2006/2007, all provinces and territories except Alberta reported declines. In Alberta, enrolment increased 1.6% to just under 561,000. Similarly, all provinces and territories except Alberta and Nunavut reported declines between 2000/2001 and 2006/2007. During this six-year period, enrolment rose 2.0% in Alberta and 3.6% in Nunavut.

The largest declines during this period occurred in Newfoundland and Labrador (-17.6%), Saskatchewan (-11.6%) and Nova Scotia (-11.0%). This is consistent with population estimates showing that the school-age population fell in all three provinces during the same period.

Enrolment in second-language immersion programs in public elementary and secondary schools increased steadily every year. More than 304,000 students were enrolled in a second-language immersion program in 2006/2007, up 3.1% from a year earlier and up 9.5% compared with 2000/2001.

More than 325,000 students graduated from public secondary schools in 2006/2007, up 3.3% from the previous year and up 5.8% compared with 2000/2001.

In 2006/2007, the graduation rate for publicly funded high schools stood at 71.3%, down from 73.2% in 2005/2006. Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island recorded the highest high school graduation rate at 85.4%, while Alberta recorded the lowest at 65.0%.

[1] From Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, August 27, 2009

This Month

- Public School Indicators
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Cities Report
- The Industry Report

Produced by the Labour Market Analysis Branch (LMAB) of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour
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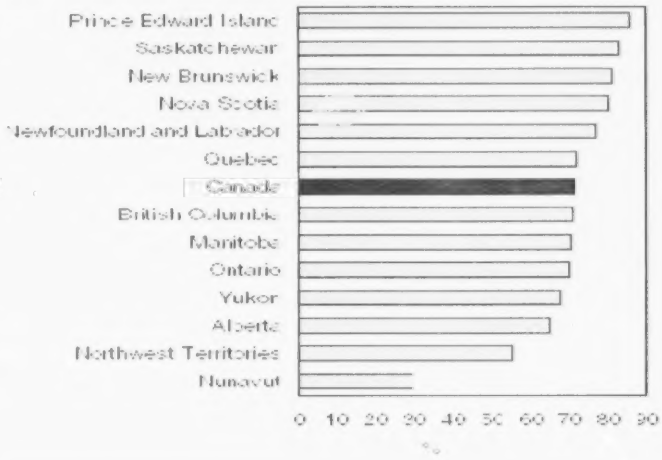
PUBLIC SCHOOL INDICATORS (continued)

The high school graduation rate at the Canada level in 2006/2007 was higher for females (75.3%) than for males (67.6%). Provincial graduation rates for both females and males were highest in Prince Edward Island (89.2% and 81.7% respectively) and lowest in Alberta (68.2% and 62.0% respectively).

Total expenditures in Canada's elementary and secondary schools amounted to $49.6 billion in 2006/2007, up 4.5% from the previous year and up 27.9% since 2000/2001. The six-year rate of growth was almost twice the rate of inflation of 14.4% as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

In 2000/2001, the average cost to educate a student for one year in Canada was $7,696. By 2006/2007, this had increased 33.3% to $10,262. This includes all students at the elementary, secondary, adult and vocational levels.

Graduation rate, 2006/2007



Among the provinces, the annual cost per student in 2006/2007 ranged from $10,823 in Manitoba to $8,594 in Prince Edward Island.

Part of the increase in costs per student is explained by the fact that despite declining enrolments, the total number of educators (full-time equivalent) increased. In 2006/2007, there were 329,224 educators, up 2.5% from 2005/2006 and up 4.1% from 2000/2001.

Between 2000/2001 and 2006/2007, publicly funded schools attracted young educators and retained older ones. The number of educators aged 29 or younger rose 80.6% to 59,001, while the number of those aged 60 and above almost tripled to 10,594.

Notes:

1. Data are obtained from the Department or Ministry of Education in each province and territory and include publicly funded schools.
2. The term "educator" refers not only to teachers, but to all employees in the public school system who are required to have teaching certification as a condition of their employment. This definition generally includes principals, vice-principals and professional non-teaching staff.
3. The graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates from publicly funded schools by the average population aged 17 and 18. This underestimates the "final" graduation rate and should not be used to infer the dropout rate.

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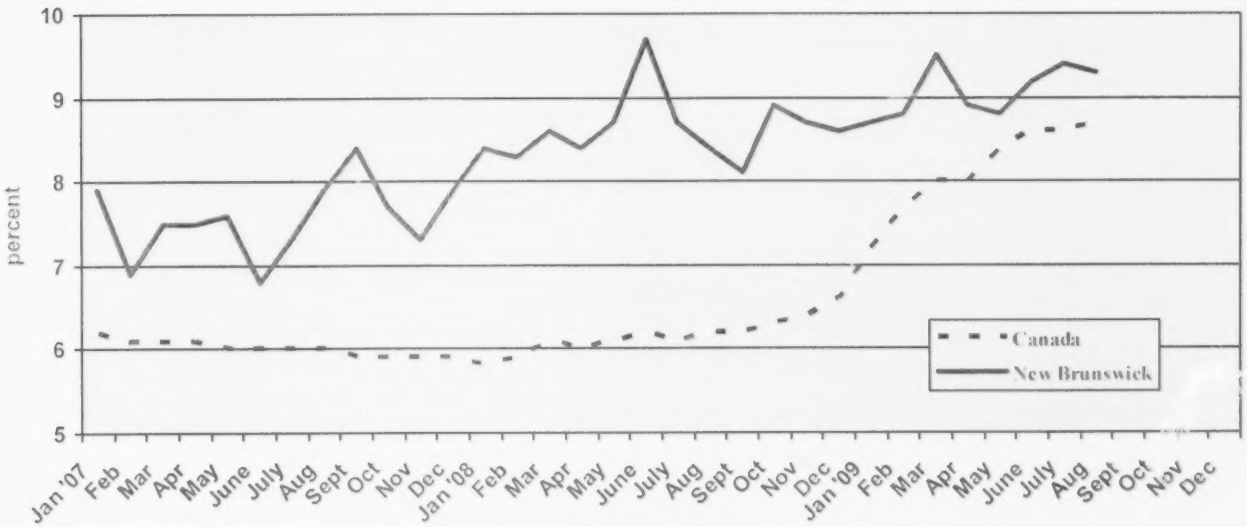
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	August '09	July '09	August'08
Labour Force	402,100	**402,400**	402,700	400,400
Employed	365,600	**364,900**	364,900	366,500
Unemployed	36,500	**37,500**	37,800	33,800
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	**9.3%**	9.4%	8.4%
Participation Rate	64.8%	**64.7%**	64.8%	64.7%
Employment Rate	58.9%	**58.7%**	58.7%	59.2%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In August, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.7%, 0.1 of a percentage point higher than last month and 2.5 percentage points higher than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 9.3% was 0.1 of a percentage point lower than last month but 0.9 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year, when it stood at 8.4%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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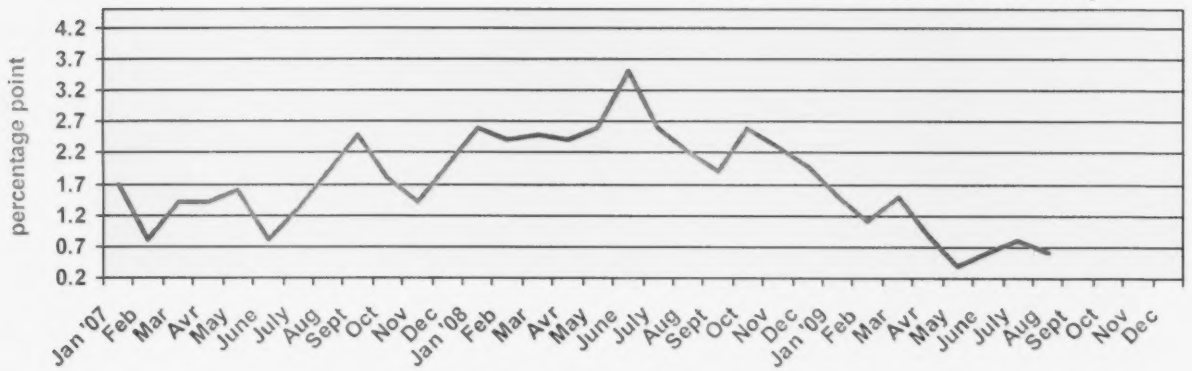
CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 0.6 of a percentage point in August.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

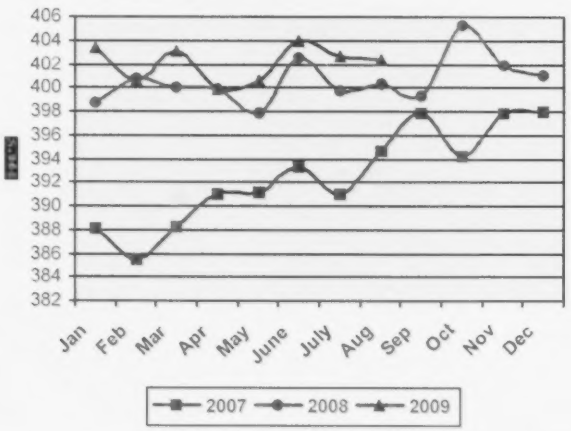
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 402,400 in August. This represented a decrease of 300 over last month, but an increase of 2,000 over the same time last year.

THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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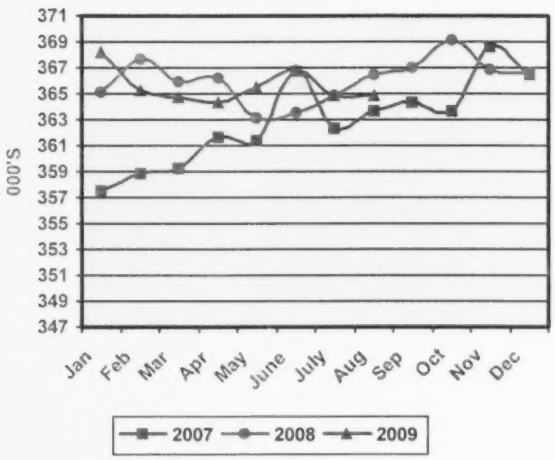
EMPLOYMENT

There were 364,900 people working in August. This was unchanged over last month but 1,600 less when compared to the same period last year. This sitting government has committed to increasing employment by 25,000 over the length of the present mandate. To date employment has increased by 13,700 from September 2006 to August 2009, indicating this government has attained 55% of its goal.

UNEMPLOYMENT

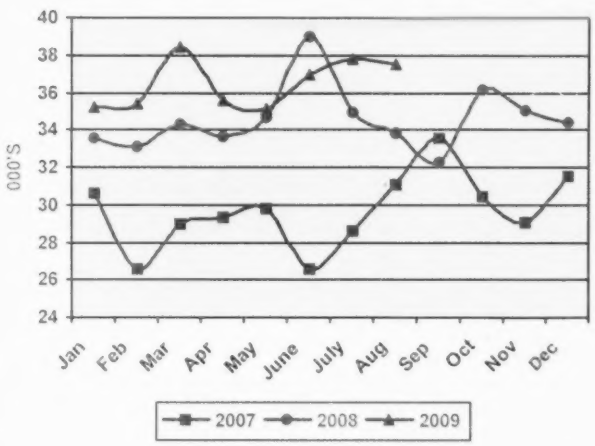
There were 37,500 people unemployed and seeking work in August. This is 300 less people than what was recorded last month but 3,700 more than the same period last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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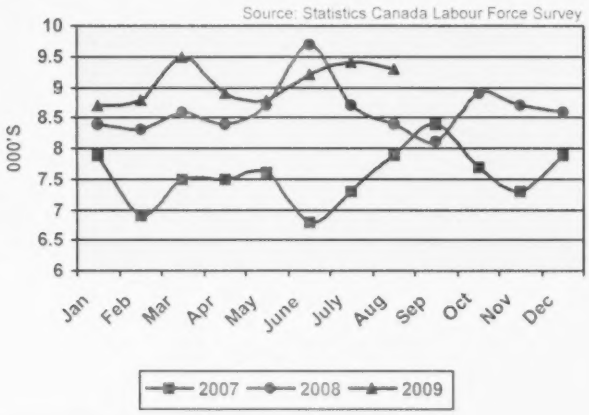
THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 9.3% in August was 0.1 of a percentage point lower than last month but 0.9 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year.

THE ECONOMIC REGIONS

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



August'09	Economic Regions				
	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force (000)	80.3	117.9	99.1	75.8	45.4
Employment (000)	69.0	108.0	93.2	70.7	41.3
Unemployment (000)	11.3	10.0	5.8	5.0	4.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.1%	8.5%	5.9%	6.6%	9.0%
Participation Rate (%)	59.4%	70.2%	68.9%	71.2%	66.6%

Economic Regions	YTD		August'09		July'09		August'08	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	62,800	16.4%	69,000	14.1%	68,800	13.5%	73,900	13.2%
Southeast	104,500	8.0%	108,000	8.5%	106,600	8.7%	108,200	7.2%
Southwest	90,700	6.3%	93,200	5.9%	93,400	5.7%	88,800	7.3%
Central	66,100	7.9%	70,700	6.6%	69,700	7.3%	70,100	5.5%
Northwest	39,200	10.7%	41,300	9.0%	40,300	9.6%	40,800	8.9%

On a year over year basis (August 2009 compared to August 2008), employment increased in the Southwest (+4,400); Central (+600) and Northwest (+500) economic regions while employment decreased in the Northeast (-4,900) and Southeast (-200) regions.

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THE CITIES REPORT

Here is what's happening with the Labour Force in the Major Cites of New Brunswick, from the September 4, 2009 release of the Labour Force Survey.

In August 2009, the Fredericton CA recorded the lowest unemployment rate (UR) in the province at 4.4%, which was up 0.1 percentage point over the same time last year. This was followed by the Saint John CMA, which recorded an UR of 5.2%, down 1.1 percentage points when compared to last year. The Moncton CMA recorded an UR of 7.6%, up 1.2 percentage points over last year. Also in August, three regions recorded an unemployment rate higher than the provincial 3-month moving average rate of 8.7%. The Edmundston CA recorded an UR rate of 9.6%, up 0.3 percentage point over last year. The Miramichi CA recorded an UR of 10.3%, down 0.2 percentage point over the same time last year. The Bathurst CA recorded an UR of 12.5%, up 5.2 percentage points over the same time last year.

The Saint John CMA (-700), the Miramichi CA (-400) and the Edmundston CA (-100) were the only cities in the Province to register a drop in the level of unemployed persons in August, compared to the same month last year. The Moncton CMA (+1,100), the Bathurst CA (+700) and the Fredericton CA (+200) all recorded increases in the number of unemployed persons found in their regions.

Last month, the Fredericton CA region recorded the highest level of employment growth (6.4%), gaining 3,300 jobs compared to the same period last year. This was followed by the Saint John CMA, which grew by 4.1% or 2,700 jobs compared to August of last year. The Moncton CMA grew by 0.8% or 600 jobs when compared to the same month last year. The Miramichi CA, the Bathurst CA, and the Edmundston CA all recorded lower levels of employment on a year-over-year basis. The Miramichi CA lost 3,100 jobs, a staggering 30.4% year-over-year drop in employment. The Edmundston CA lost 1,500 jobs, a 12.8% drop in employment compared to the same time last year. The Bathurst CA lost 800 jobs, a 6.3% year-over-year drop in employment.

All northern cities registered decreases in their labour force participation rates, while all the southern cites registered increases. In August, the Edmundston CA participation rate of 61.6% was 10.5 percentage points lower than the same time last year. The Miramichi CA participation rate of 54.2% was 6.1 percentage points lower than the same time last year, while the Bathurst CA participation rate (70.1%) remained fairly stable, dropping only 0.2 percentage point from the same time last year. The Fredericton CA participation rate of 76.8% (the highest in the Province) was 3.6 percentage points higher than the same time last year. The Moncton CMA participation rate of 72.3% (the second highest in the Province) was 0.5 percentage point higher than the same time last year. The Saint John CMA participation rate of 67.7% was 1.5 percentage points higher than the same time last year

When you combine the low unemployment rates with the high participation rates and the solid employment growth recorded in all three cities in the Southern part of the province last month, it is easy to determine that the strongest performing cities on the labour front have been the Fredericton CA, the Saint John CMA and the Moncton CMA. The Fredericton CA, which has an unemployment rate of 4.4%, a labour force participation rate of 76.8% and solid employment growth (6.4%), was one of the best performing labour markets in Canada last month.

When you combine the low unemployment rates found in all the three cities in the Southern part of the province with the high participation rates these cites have as well, and you consider the solid employment growth each of these have recorded last month, it is easy to determine the strongest performing cities on the labour front have been the Fredericton CA, the Saint John CMA and the Moncton CMA, and. The Fredericton CA, which has an unemployment rate of 4.9%, shrinking unemployment levels and solid employment growth was one of the best performing labour markets in Canada last month.

*Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - 3 month moving averages

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Employment growth on a year over year basis was strongest in the following sectors*:

Information, Culture and Recreation (26.4%) – In August of 2009 there were approximately 13,400 people employed in this sector. This is the third month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 10 of those months (7 happening during the first 8 months of this period). Additionally, so far this year (Jan. to Aug. 2009), employment has actually declined by 7.3% when compared to the same time period last year.

Construction (19.7%) – In August of 2009 there were approximately 28,000 people employed in this sector (a new record high for this sector). This is the sixth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 16 of those months. So far this year (Jan. to Aug. 2009), employment is 10.8% higher than last year (Jan. to Aug. 2008). All indications suggest the provincial infrastructure program combined with the federal economic stimulus plan and the booming urban centres of Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton are all working together to push construction employment to record levels, at least in the short-term.

Educational Services (15.7%) – In August of 2009 there were approximately 27,300 people employed in this sector. This is the eleventh month in a row where the employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 14 of those months. So far this year (Jan. to Aug. 2009), employment is 12.5% higher than last year (Jan. to Aug. 2008). Strong provincial and federal investments are making more educational services available (particularly in the Post-Secondary side of the sector), while a weaker Canadian labour market is increasing demand for Educational Services, as more people turn to training and education as a means to improve their employment prospects in tough economic times.

Agriculture (10.2%) – In August of 2009 there were approximately 6,500 people employed in this sector. This is the twelfth month in a row where the employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 14 of those months. Even though we are just over half way through the year, this sector is on pace to set a year-over-year employment growth record; year-to-date employment is up 27.2% from where it was at the same time last year.

* Includes the top three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year over year) increase in employment.

Employment was weaker on a year over year basis in the following sectors**:

Utilities (-15.1%) - In August of 2009 there were approximately 4,500 people employed in this sector. This is the fifth month in a row that this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year-over-year employment gains 19 times. So far this year (Jan. to Aug. 2009), employment has declined by 9.4% when compared to the same time period last year. This decline may be attributed to the fact that the Canaport LNG project in Saint John and the associated LNG pipeline as well as a number of other large construction projects are winding down.

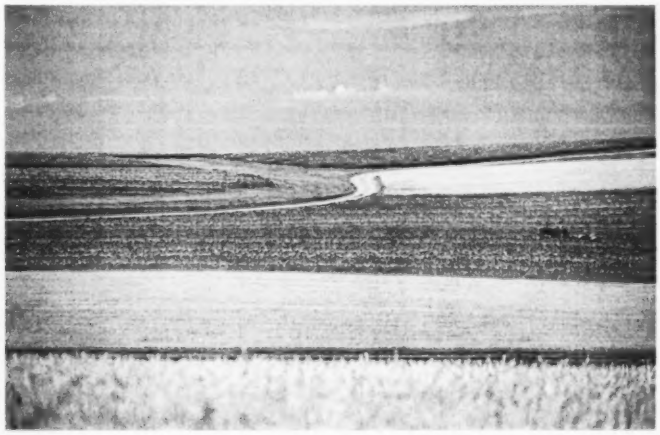
Manufacturing (-11.1%) – In August of 2009 there were approximately 32,800 people employed in this sector. This is the eleventh month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 2 of those months. So far this year (Jan. to Aug. 2009), employment has declined by 5.5% when compared to the same time period last year. This sector has taken many hits over the last couple of years as a

THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

result of the weakening economy (here and abroad), the fluctuating value of the Canadian dollar and high energy prices.

Retail and Wholesale Trade (-9.0%) – In August of 2009 there were approximately 54,300 people employed in this sector. This is eleventh month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was the same or weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 11 of those months (all in the first 13 months of this period). So far this year (Jan. to Aug. 2009), employment has declined by 5.2% when compared to the same time period last year. This employment weakness can be attributed to the weakening economy and waning consumer confidence over the period.

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year over year) decrease in employment



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